

Dr. Sean D. McKeever
smckeever@albany.edu

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. State University of New York at Albany, 2019
 (Major Field: Political Theory, Minor Field: Comparative Politics)
 Dissertation: “Adorno’s Concept of the Good: Peaceful Tensions and the
 Precipice of Paradise”
- M.A. Lehigh University, 2009
 (Political Science)
 Master’s Thesis: “Hegel’s Preface to the *Phenomenology of Spirit*”
- B.A. Lehigh University, 2008
 (First Major: International Relations, Second Major: Political Science)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Professor:

Summary of Discreet Courses Taught across Departments/Colleges 2013-Present

RPOS 103/RPOS 103Y/POSC 130 (Introduction to Political Theory: What Is Freedom?)
RPOS 204 (Selected Problems in Political Science: Reason and Its Discontents)
RPOS/TPOS 204 (Selected Problems in Political Science: Politics and Technology)
RPOS/TPOS 204 (Selected Problems in Political Science: Who Needs Government?)
RPOS 301 (History of Political Theory I: Ancient Greeks through Machiavelli)
RPOS 307 (American Political Theory)
RPOS 308 (Theorists and Theorizing: Postmodernism and the Internet)
RPOS 310 (Contemporary Political Theory: The Prospects of Freedom in the 21st Century)
RPOS/TPOS 314 (Problems of Political Inquiry: Thinking Political Communities)
RPOS 365 (Government and Mass Media: Media and Political and Governmental Power)
RPOS 399 (Selected Topics: Politics and Culture)
TPOS 204 (Selected Problems in Political Science: Art and Politics)
TPOS 204 (Selected Problems in Political Science: Left and Right)
TPOS 310 (Contemporary Political Philosophy: Aesthetics and Politics)
TPOS 365 (Government and Mass Media: What *Is* Media?)
TUNI 250 (Honors Advanced Topics: What Is Real?)

State University of New York at Albany (Honors College), Spring 2022-Present

TUNI 250 (What Is Real?)

State University of New York at Albany

Spring 2024, Spring 2025, Spring 2026 (Forthcoming)

Proposed a new course to be taught in the Honors College. This course was an interdisciplinary look at the concept of “real”. Both in class discussions and in written assignments, this course asked students to connect different ideas of what is real to their specific academic fields of study. In different iterations of this course, we read the Bible, Tao Te Ching, Bhagavad-Gita, Kant, Foucault, Haraway, Butler, Žižek, Ihde, Nancy, Luhmann, Flusser, Baylis, Raman, Chalmers, Vedral, Hoffman, Agamben, Baggott, and Bennett.

TPOS 204 (Politics and Technology)

State University of New York at Albany

Fall 2024, Spring 2026 (Forthcoming)

Proposed a new course to be taught in the Honors College. This course is an updated and modified version of the corresponding RPOS 204 course taught in Spring 2023. In Fall 2024, the theorists that we read were Ellul, Winner, Ihde, Virilio, Flusser, Ernst, and Lupton, and the kinds of technology that we explored were CRISPR, biofabrication, biotek/Lo-Tek/green tech, AI, social media, television, virtual reality, and video games.

TPOS 204 (Art and Politics)

State University of New York at Albany

Spring 2025, Fall 2025 (Forthcoming)

Proposed a new course to be taught in the Honors College. This course looked at the writings of artists themselves to see how different definitions of art lead not only to different kinds of art but also to different possibilities for living, personally and collectively. Insofar as artists are theorizing about and creating worlds as much as they are artworks, they are both political theorists and political activists of a sort.

TPOS 204 (Who Needs Government?)

State University of New York at Albany

Fall 2025 (Forthcoming)

This course is an updated and modified version of the corresponding RPOS 204 course taught in Fall 2024.

TPOS 204 (Left and Right)

State University of New York at Albany

Fall 2024

Proposed a new course to be taught in the Honors College. This course looked at the intellectual foundations of the political left and the political right in America with the goal of better understanding the core tenets of each, even as we see the

evolution and change of these beliefs, in the hopes that we can better understand and evaluate today's iteration of each.

TPOS 310 (Contemporary Political Philosophy)

State University of New York at Albany

Fall 2023, Spring 2023

The TPOS 210 course taught previously was re-numbered as a TPOS 310 course.

TPOS 365 (Government and Mass Media)

State University of New York at Albany

Fall 2023, Spring 2023, Fall 2022

The TPOS 265 course taught previously was re-numbered as a TPOS 365 course.

TPOS 314 (Problems of Political Inquiry)

State University of New York at Albany

Fall 2022

Proposed a new course to be taught in the Honors College. This was an updated and modified version of the RPOS 314 that I taught previously. Thinkers studied were: Plato, Kant, Nietzsche, Lyotard, Adorno, Eliot, and Žižek.

TPOS 210 (Contemporary Political Philosophy)

State University of New York at Albany

Spring 2022

Proposed a new course to be taught in the Honors College. This course examines politics and aesthetics. Planned thinkers of study include: Adorno, Eliot, Lyotard, and Rancière.

TPOS 265 (Government and Mass Media)

State University of New York at Albany

Spring 2022

Proposed a new course to be taught in the Honors College. This course examines 6 different perspectives on 3 different definitions of media. We examine media as mediation, mediator, and media (i.e., the plural of medium). We will then look at different kinds of media to help us analyze and apply those conceptions of media. It is an interdisciplinary course spanning political theory, political science, media theory, and media studies.

State University of New York at Albany (Political Science), Fall 2013-Present

RPOS 103 (Introduction to Political Theory)

State University of New York at Albany

Summer 2021, Spring 2021, Summer 2020, Fall 2019, Fall 2018, Fall 2017, Fall 2016, Spring 2016, Fall 2015, Summer 2015, Spring 2015, Fall 2014

Designed and taught an undergraduate course that explored the concept of freedom. The course was split into three sections: Freedom and Truth (Plato, Mill,

and Foucault), Freedom and Economics (Locke, Marx, and Friedman), and Freedom and Government (Rousseau, Tocqueville, and Goldman).

RPOS 103Y (Introduction to Political Theory)

State University of New York at Albany

Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Spring 2023, Fall 2022, Spring 2022, Fall 2021, Fall 2020, Spring 2020, Spring 2019

Designed and taught an undergraduate course that explored the concept of freedom. Oversaw 2 TAs and their discussion sections. The course was split into three sections: Freedom and Truth (Plato, Mill, and Foucault), Freedom and Economics (Locke, Marx, and Friedman), and Freedom and Government (Rousseau, Tocqueville, and Goldman).

RPOS 365 (Government and Mass Media)

State University of New York at Albany

Summer 2025, Spring 2025, Summer 2024, Spring 2024, Winter 2024, Summer 2023, Winter 2023, Fall 2022, Summer 2022, Winter 2022, Fall 2021, Spring 2021, Winter 2021, Spring 2020, Winter 2020, Fall 2019, Summer 2019, Spring 2019, Fall 2018, Summer 2018, Fall 2017, Summer 2017, Winter 2017, Summer 2016, Summer 2014

Designed and taught an undergraduate course that explored the ways in which mass media (both in form and content) exerts political power and how it interacts with others who exert political power. This course has been offered both as a fully online course and as an in-class course. Both versions of the course explored units on: Theories of Mass Media, Definitions of Mass Media, History of Mass Media, Issues in Mass Media, Varieties of Mass Media, Mass Media and Government, and Mass Media and Democracy.

RPOS 399 (Politics and Culture)

State University of New York at Albany

Spring 2024

Proposed and designed a new advanced topics course that examines the political components of culture. This course was split into two halves. In Part I, we looked at various definitions of culture and the corresponding argument for how we should study culture. In Part 1, thinkers we read included: Adorno, Barthes, Williams, Geertz, Putnam, Manovich, and New Materialists Sterne and Lupton. In Part II, we applied these thoughts to the following fields of culture: sports; theater, film, and television; music; and online and social media.

RPOS 204 (Who Needs Government?)

State University of New York at Albany

Fall 2024

Proposed and designed a new topics course that examined the various ways that people have sought to organize to solve political, social, and economic problems without the teeth of government. The first half of this course looked at the topic philosophically—why did governments arise, what is the purpose of government,

is government necessary—and then, with these theories in mind, we looked at it more empirically by looking at specific historical attempts to do what government does (including build infrastructure, provide money, and police) without using government.

RPOS 204 (Politics and Technology)
State University of New York at Albany
Spring 2023

Proposed and designed a new topics course that examines the political implications of technology. This course was split into two halves. In Part I, we examined various theoretical accounts of technology: Ellul, Winner, Ihde, Flusser, Virilio, and Ernst. In Part II, we applied those theories to specific kinds of media. The kinds of media were, in part, chosen by the class and included: food technologies, Wi-Fi, smart cities, robots, internet of things, and self-tracking devices.

RPOS 301 (History of Political Theory I)
State University of New York at Albany
Fall 2023, Fall 2015, Fall 2014, Spring 2014

Designed and taught an undergraduate course that explored important political theory concepts such as the good, justice, and democracy in works from the ancient Greeks through Machiavelli. Thinkers studied were: Aeschylus, Plato, Aristotle, Boethius, Augustine, Aquinas, and Machiavelli.

RPOS 204 (Reason and Its Discontents)
State University of New York at Albany
Spring 2022

Proposed and designed a new topics course that examines reason and those thinkers who criticize reason as oppressive or propose that we must add something to reason in order to understand the world properly. Planned thinkers of study include: Kant, Adorno, Ellul, and Nussbaum.

RPOS 300 (Honors Tutorial in Political Science)
State University of New York at Albany
Fall 2021

Designed and delivered a 1-credit add-on to my RPOS 365 course in fulfillment of a requirement for a Political Science Honors Program student.

RPOS 308 (Theorists and Theorizing)
State University of New York at Albany
Fall 2020

Designed and taught an undergraduate course that explored the relationship between theorists who question the existence of truth and the construction and usage of the internet as well as the political implications of each. In keeping with the course objectives, this was done in the context of an in-depth analysis of a

single thinker (Lyotard). Lyotard's ideas were then contrasted with two other thinkers: Baudrillard and Žižek.

RPOS 314 (Problems of Political Inquiry)

State University of New York at Albany

Spring 2018, Spring 2017, Fall 2016, Spring 2016

Designed and taught an undergraduate course that explored the benefits and problems of various methods of political inquiry and the ways in which different kinds of political inquiry open or close possibilities for political organization. The course was primarily organized around enlightenment and anti-enlightenment or alternative-enlightenment thought. The thinkers studied were: Plato, Kant, Nietzsche, Freud, Adorno, Eliot, Ellul, and Lyotard.

RPOS 307 (American Political Theory)

State University of New York at Albany

Spring 2015

Designed and taught an undergraduate course that explored important political theory concepts in American theoretical tradition including: democracy, the people, political imagination, charity, individualism, and universal purpose. Readings included: the Federalists and Anti-Federalists, Winthrop, Franklin, Tocqueville, Emerson, Whitman, Conwell, Roosevelt, Rorty, Kirk, and Eliot.

RPOS 310 (Contemporary Political Theory)

State University of New York at Albany

Fall 2013

Designed and taught an undergraduate course organized around 20th century conceptions of freedom. Thinkers: Kant (as background), Adorno, Eliot, Oakeshott, Freud, Lyotard, and Foucault.

Siena College, Spring 2018

POSC 130 (Political Theory)

Siena College

Spring 2018

Designed and taught an undergraduate course that explored the concept of freedom. The course was split into three sections: Freedom and Truth (Plato, Mill, and Foucault), Freedom and Economics (Locke, Marx, and Friedman), and Freedom and Government (Rousseau, Tocqueville, and Goldman).

Guest Lecturer:

RPOS 695 (Graduate: Research and Writing Seminar)

State University of New York at Albany

Spring 2023

Designed and presented a unique on the Political Theory methodology and how Political Theory methods are unique as compared to Political Science methods.

RPOS 310 (Undergraduate: Contemporary Political Theory)
State University of New York at Albany
Fall 2017

Presented a unique unit on Adorno and music.

RPOS 695 (Graduate: Research and Writing Seminar)
State University of New York at Albany
Fall 2014, Fall 2013, Fall 2012

Designed and presented a unit on research tools and methods.

RPOS 397 (Undergraduate: American Political Thought)
State University of New York at Albany
Spring 2013

Presented a unique unit on the Anti-Federalists Papers.

Teaching Assistant:

State University of New York at Albany, Spring 2011-Spring 2013

RPOS 103Y (Introductory Political Theory Course)
State University of New York at Albany
Spring 2013, Fall 2012, Spring 2012, Fall 2011, Spring 2011

Taught 3 discussion sections per semester (utilized a mixture of lecture and Socratic method), graded exams and papers, suggested exam and paper questions, and held weekly office hours.

Lehigh University, Fall 2008-Spring 2009

IR 10 (Introductory International Relations Course)
Lehigh University
Spring 2009, Fall 2008

Graded exams, edited exams, and held weekly office hours.

OTHER RELATED JOBS

Graduate Student Writing Tutor
State University of New York at Albany
Fall 2022-Present

Tutored graduate students in Rockefeller College to improve their writing, including: ESL grammar and technical, professional, and academic writing in various forms.

RESEARCH

Conference Papers

NYPSA 2024 Annual Conference, April 27, 2024
“Adorno and the Recovery of Humility”

SERVICE

Fall 2022-Present Reading Seminar

Once or twice per semester, offered my seminar on how to read better to students enrolled in any of my classes.

Fall 2019 Academic Support Workshop

Proposed, designed, and delivered a seminar on reading better for the department’s new initiative to help academically at-risk students.

2012, 2014-15 Mentored incoming PhD students as part of a Graduate Association of Political Science (GAPS) program

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

The Dialectic Tradition; Critical Theory; Aesthetics; Epistemology/Truth and Politics; Mass Media Theory and Practice; Politics and Technology; Politics and Art and Culture; The Nature of Reality; Time, Tradition and Progress; Religion and Politics

OTHER TRAINING

Spring 2014 State University of New York at Albany Online Course Development Workshop

AWARDS AND HONORS

2021 Nominated for the University at Albany President’s Excellence Awards: Part-Time Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award

2020 Nominated by a graduating senior for the university-wide Torch Faculty/Student Engagement Award

2020 Winner of the Rockefeller College Political Science Distinguished Dissertation Award

2012/2013 Co-winner of the Rockefeller College Political Science Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award

FUNDING

2010-2014 Department-funded graduate assistantship

Letters of Recommendation available upon request